

March 6, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) recently received approval for the *RI Global Consumer Choice Compact Waiver*, or Global Waiver, from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 16, 2009. The Global Waiver establishes a new Federal-State compact that provides the State with additional flexibility in the Medicaid Program in providing services to meet the needs of Rhode Islanders. The waiver is effective from January 16, 2009 through December 31, 2013.

The EOHHS, in collaboration with the Directors of the Health and Human Services agencies, will be establishing an Implementation Taskforce to assure public input on the planning and implementation of Medicaid reforms through this demonstration waiver. The populations groups include:

- Children and youth with special health care needs
- Adults and children with developmental disabilities
- Adults with serious and persistent mental illness and/or addiction disorders and children with severe emotional disturbance
- Adults with disabilities
- Adults age 65 and older
- Low income children and families

Gary D. Alexander, Acting Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), will appoint members of the taskforce that include individuals who represent the people and communities we serve.

The members of the taskforce will include: consumers or family members of consumers; members of advocacy or policy organizations; representatives from organizations that either provide services to or represent entities that provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries (including but not limited to health plans, hospitals, community health centers, community mental health organizations, licensed substance abuse treatment providers, licensed health care practitioners, nursing facilities, and home and community-based service providers).

**If you are interested in being considered** to be a member of the taskforce, please send an email or letter to Gary Alexander, Acting Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services by **March 13, 2009**. If you have already sent a letter or email, it's not necessary to send another one. Please forward this to others that may not be on this email list. Thank you.

email: [sbuontempo@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:sbuontempo@dhs.ri.gov)

or mail to:

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